

SENATE BILL 3374

By Jackson

AN ACT to name a bridge spanning the Little Buffalo River on State Route 99 in Lewis County in honor of the late Fred Couch.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who made great sacrifices in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no soldier is more deserving of this honor than the late Fred Couch of Lewis County; and

WHEREAS, as a member of America's Greatest Generation, Mr. Couch proudly and courageously served his country during World War II, making great personal sacrifice when he lost one of his arms in combat; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Couch's valiant service in the military and his love of his family, his fellow citizens, and his country, as exemplified in his great personal sacrifice in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to name the bridge nearest his former home to permanently commemorate Fred Couch's life of purpose and commitment during World War II and beyond; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning the Little Buffalo River on State Route 99 in the Riverside community of Lewis County and designated the "Luther and Marvin Patton Memorial Bridge" by Chapter 538 of the Public Acts of 2007 is hereby redesignated the "Fred Couch Memorial Bridge" as a lasting tribute to a gentleman who served his country with courage, honor, and integrity in World War II.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Fred Couch Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.